

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 PER-03 A-01 /018 W

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R 011150Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4601

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 2241

EB/CBA FOR LAKAS, AF/EX FOR KENNEDY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, APER, APUB, BEXP

SUBJ: IDENTITY OF EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT COMMERCIAL OFFICER

1. TELEGRAPHIC INVITATION TO AFRICAN COMMERCIAL OFFICERS CONFERENCE (STATE 252851) AND JUST-ARRIVED AUGUST 1975 FOREIGN SERVICE LIST TO CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING, JAY DEHMLOW IS NOT RPT NOT EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER. EMBASSY EXPLICITLY POINTED OUT IN MAY(NOUAKCHOTT 989) THAT DEHMLOW WAS NOT GOING TO BE EMBASSY COMMERCIAL OFFICER, THAT JUNIOR ACTION/REPORTING OFFICER SLOT HE WAS GOING INTO WAS NOT RPT NOT ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER POSITION. MOREOVER, EMBASSY EXPLICITLY NOTED REFTEL THAT ALL COMMERCIAL AND MOST OF ECONOMIC WORK WAS GOING TO BE DONE BY EMBASSY'S ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER WHO WAS SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT POST BEFORE END OF MAY. MID-SPRING CONFUSION IS UNDERSTANDABLE IN VIEW OF TIME LAG BETWEEN DECISION TO REDESIGNATE SLOT AS POLITICAL AND IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGE. BUT DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT PURSUANT TO RECOMMENDATION OF FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS (WITH WHICH POST FULLY CONCURRED), OPERATIONS MEMORANDUM FORMALLY REQUESTING REDESIGNATION OF JUNIOR ACTION/REPORTING OFFICER POSITION AS POLITICAL JOB WAS SUBMITTED JUNE 23. ON AUGUST 1, DEPARTMENT INFORMED US THAT REQUESTED CHANGE HAD BEEN MADE.

2. DAVID M. RANSOM IS NOUAKCHOTT ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER. HE HAS MADE STRENUOUS AND SUCCESSFUL EFFORT TO GET TO KNOW MAURITANIAN, RESIDENT AMERICAN, AND EX-UNCLASSIFIED

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PATRIATE BUSINESS AND ENGINEERING COMMUNITIES, AND TO

INSURE THEY KNOW HE IS AVAILABLE TO HELP THEM SOLVE ANY PROBLEMS INVOLVING U.S. EXPORTERS OR SUPPLIERS. MOREOVER, GROWING VOLUME OF COMMERCIAL CORRESPONDENCE WITH U.S. FIRMS IS GOING OUT OF THIS MISSION OVER HIS SIGNATURE.

3. CONTINUED FAILURE TO RECOGNIZE THAT DEHMLOW IS NOT AND NEVER HAS BEEN NOUAKCHOTT ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL OFFICER AND THAT RANSOM IS CAN ONLY CREATE CONFUSION IN U.S. BUSINESSCOMMUNITY AND IMPEDE EFFORTS OF THIS MISSION TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATE SECTOR ACTIVITY IN MAURITANIA AND ASSIST U.S. EXPORTERS TO INCREASE SALES HERE. PERSISTENCE OF INACCURATE INFORMATION IN OFFICIAL STATE DEPARTMENT DOCUMENTS AROUSES CONCERN THAT ERROR MAY HAVE BEEN REPEATED IN POCKET GUIDE OF FOREIGN SERVICE PERSONNEL ABROAD WHICH COMMERCE DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTES WIDELY TO TRAVELING U.S. BUSINESSMEN, THUS COMPOUNDING CONFUSION. ACTION BY DEPARTMENT TO PREVENT FURTHER MINDLESS REPETITION OF THIS MISINFORMATION AND TO INSURE THAT POCKET GUIDE IN PARTICULAR REFLECTS FACTS WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED.

4. SO FAR AS CONFERENCE IS CONCERNED, MISDIRECTED INVITATION MAY BE ACADEMIC AT THIS POINT. POST HAS NO TRAVEL FUNDS. IF TOTAL COST OF PARTICIPATION NOUAKCHOTT COMMERCIAL OFFICER IN YAOUNDE MEETING IS TO BE FUNDED BY WASHINGTON OR IF BUDGET SITUATION CHANGES BEFORE FEBRUARY, WE WILL THEN EXAMINE CAREFULLY UTILITY TO POST'S OVERALL ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL PROGRAM OF SENDING RANSOM TO CONFERENCE.HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NOUAKC02241
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750380-0413
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751184/aaaacxfx.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IDENTITY OF EMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT COMMERCIAL OFFICER
TAGS: AFSP, APER, APUB, BEXP
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006